

PATENT

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26 at line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a' -- In the configuration of **FIG. 3**, application and central security portions (**321** and **322**, respectively) of the security architecture are illustrated. Of note, functional components of application security portion **321** are typically ~~hosed~~ hosted as services on a first server environment, while functional components of central security portion **322** are hosted as services on a second server environment. In this way, most interactions amongst functional components occur within a single server environment and do not require network transactions. In the configuration of **FIG. 3**, credentials associated with a calling component (e.g., framework credentials associated with application security framework **303** or application credentials associated with order management service **312**) are used to establish sufficient authorization for network transactions. Other configurations may be employed, however, the relatively small number of network transactions (e.g., authentication transaction **331** and optional value passing transaction **332**) tends to improve performance of the security architecture. Of note, authentication transaction **331** need only be performed on login credential authentication (e.g., at initial sign-on or credential upgrade) or reauthenticated (e.g., to refresh session credentials). Value passing transaction **332** provides an optional facility for passing values amongst multiple components of a distributed application (e.g., a distributed implementation of order management service **312**) wherein application credentials are used to mediate storage and retrieval of values in a central registry.--